

## The Standard.

From the N. C. Planter.

## HORIZONTAL PLOUGHING, AND HILL-SIDE DITCHING.

To the Hon. Thomas Ruffin, President of the North Carolina Agricultural Society.

HILLSIDE, Oct. 21st, 1887.  
DEAR SIR: You were, I think, the first man who introduced Horizontal Ploughing in North Carolina, but without, perhaps, the protection at first of the Hill-side Ditch.

I was taught by you, and have now for more than twenty years practiced the precise mode which I am about to describe; and I here declare, that when the work has been properly done, I have never been disappointed in my expectations from it.

In the directions which I am about to give, I have mainly followed Capt. Hardwick, of Georgia, whose elaborate and admirable essays on this subject were published in the *Outlooker* in the summer of 1855.

The level or instrument is the first thing to be considered. The one which I use, is called the Rafter Level, and is of the simplest kind. It is of heart poplar, half inch thick and four inches wide, the pieces being about 8 feet long. They are let into each other at the top at such an angle that the other two ends or feet are twelve feet apart. These ends are covered off square, so that they will stand up on the ground. A cross bar of the same sort of plank is then secured from one side to the other across the middle, and the frame of the instrument is made.

You will now fasten a plumb line to the top of it exactly, and placing the feet of the instrument on the level ground, you will drop the plumb and mark where the line crosses the cross bar, and the exact centre between these two points gives you the true level, which you will mark permanently with a knife or saw.

Or go to a carpenter's bench and get him to adjust a plank twelve feet long, on a perfect level with his spirit level, and place your instrument upon it, and drop the plumb as before, and where the line crosses the cross bar, gives the true level, which you will mark as such.

Then in order to get the different grades which you will need in making Hill-side Ditches, get four bits of wood, one inch thick, and place your instrument on an exact level, put one piece under the foot next to you, and dropping the plumb, mark plainly with a knife or saw where the line crosses the cross bar, then perform the same operation with 2, 3, and 4 pieces at a time in succession, and you will have a scale of grades, from one to four inches in twelve feet; which you will find sufficient for all purposes. It would be better, however, to have a spirit level attached to the instrument, especially would it work better in windy weather.

The Hill-side Ditches are first to be made. Their object is to receive and carry off the field, or to some branch, rain, proper receptacle within the field, the water which will run down to break over the beds, at the time of an extraordinary rain. Or to carry off all the surplus water when the field is in small grain and the beds have been broken down and the ground leveled.

In constructing these ditches, the operator will take his line of level, and by a boy and his hoe, and proceed to the highest point of the field, and here it is to be broken up, and just where it is perceived that the water begins to collect and a wash is likely to be made, he will locate a ditch.

This is done by putting down your level, and moving the foot from you either up or down, as may be required, until the plumb line shall fall upon the grade of two inches, and then you take the line and intend to give, and then you move the line in the track of the foremost foot, and fix the grade in the same way, and so on until the whole line for the ditch is marked out across the field. The boy with his hoe making a chop the ground at the forward end of the level, every time it is taken up. Care must be taken not to diminish the grade in this line of the ditch, but because if the grade is materially lessened, the flow of water in the ditch will be checked, which may accumulate, break over and do much damage.

A ploughman then follows, and runs a furrow along the line of the ditch, and by the chop, while they are fresh and easy to be soiled.

The operator then moves down the hill from 30 to 70 yards, more or less, according to the shape and undulations of the land, and marks out the line for another ditch in the same manner, and so on until all the ditches are located. The ditches are then ploughed in the same manner, and the soil is then drawn out with the hoe to the lower side so as to form banks for the ditch.

The ditches being finished, the next thing to be done is to lay off the line in parallel beds for cultivation.

And here again the operator proceeds with his level, boy and hoe, to the highest point of his field, and just above the spot where a wash is likely to begin, he commences on the side of his field, or other convenient starting place and marks a line as before, with the exception that now a perfect level is to be preserved, which is to be done by moving the level forward end of the line, and the boy with his hoe, as before, until the plumb line strikes the level mark, and in proceeding he is sure always to keep the hinder foot of the level precisely in the track from which the foremost foot was just taken.

This line when finished is also to be marked out by a plough, following as before. Then descend the hill or slope from 20 to 50 yards, more or less, as the nature of the ground may require, and form another furrow in the same way, and so on until the field is laid off. These furrows cross the hill-side ditches wherever they reach them.

These furrows are called *guide furrows*, because by them the beds are to be formed.

The field is now ready to be ploughed into beds. These beds are to be made up as the owner may like, and in making them, a good turning plow will be used, which must run as deep as the soil will allow, going down to the clay. The work is best done by commencing on the lower side of one guide furrow and ploughing down half way to the guide furrow next below it. And then by moving the plow down to that guide furrow, and ploughing upwards from it until the ploughing in the other direction is reached.

The object of this, is to equalize the variation from a perfect level, which will exist in the space between the guide furrows, in most fields, occasioned by the irregularity of the land. And it will be found that the furrows thus run on each side of the guide furrows and starting parallel with them, will somewhat vary from a perfect level, and actually meet at one or more points, leaving pieces of the land between them not broken up.

These spaces are to be broken up by short beds, which will commence on the side which seems most level.

The field is now ready for planting and cultivation.

1. In laying out the Hill-side Ditches, it is important not to have them too long, but to empty them as soon as you conveniently can. And on that account it is much better usually, not to run them entirely across the field, but to begin about the middle of the slope to be laid off, and run them from a centre line, up and down the field out to each side.

And in doing that, it is best again to make the ditches lap at the starting places, leaving a space of twelve feet or more between their beginning points, which will enable you to haul your manure into the field, and your crops out of it without crossing the ditches.

2. I have always turned, in breaking up the land, at the ditches. A man who attends to his own land, and has it done right may pass over most of them. And in bedding up the field turn rows must be fixed at such points as are most convenient, being controlled by the nature of the ground.

3. No invariable rule can be given for the grade of the ditches, or their width or depth. The good sense, judgment and experience of the farmer must determine these points. They must be large enough and have descent enough to receive and carry off all the water which will flow into them in case of the beds above them breaking. On my land, which is a red clay soil, free from sand, and therefore porous and absorbent, a grade of two inches to the 12 feet and from 10 to 12 inches deep, and from 20 to 30 inches wide, answers the purpose for the ditches. The bank on the lower side of the ditch being carefully preserved unbroken.

If the ditches have too much descent, the danger is that they will wash into gullies; if too little, the water may accumulate in them and break over. These are the extremes to be avoided.

4. According to my experience, the time of greatest danger to your field in the mode of cultivation, is at the first working of the crop, for then the beds are necessarily broken down in a great measure. If just at this period a very great rain should fall, you will probably be injured some. But even then, you will be so much as if your field was ploughed up and down hill, because all the furrows are still upon a level, and the water does not accumulate to a ruinous extent at any one point. And the damage will usually be avoided, entirely by carefully cleaning out the furrows at this working. And the period of short duration, for at the next working the dirt is thrown back again and the beds restored.

5. Now, Sir, I am aware that many persons object to this system of cultivation, out and out; and say in round terms it will not answer. Of such persons, I am inclined to think that few have ever really given it a fair trial. They have not practiced it, they have only heard of it. They have seen an imperfect instrument in leveling their land, or have tried to do it by the eye without a level at all; or they have endeavored to make each water furrow carry off its own surplus water, or empty it into the ditches, by giving the beds, water furrows and ditches, all the same uniform grade.

All these expedients have failed, because in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred in a field of any extent, the surface of the ground is too unequal to allow of any of these modes, especially the last, to be performed with accuracy and perfection. Let all such objectors first try Horizontal Ploughing and Hill-side Ditching as here described, and afterwards give their judgment upon it.

No single year can perhaps be remembered when land in North-Carolina has suffered from washing rains, more generally or more immensely, than during the present year. The present year has furnished the severest test of the efficacy of this mode of cultivation that I have ever known. There was, especially in this vicinity on the night of the third of May, an immense fall of rain, which produced greater ruin than I have witnessed from a single rain at any time within twenty years. And this was followed through the season by several other terribly washing rains. And yet my ploughing and ditching, without in the least interfering with my corn field was land so rolling, that there is not a spot in it from which the descent, in the direction of the greatest descent, is not ten feet in one hundred yards. It was broken up in the fall and winter, five and a half inches deep, in beds five and a half feet apart, with a first rate plow which turned a furrow of eleven inches deep.

This field, with beds on a dead level, and hill-side ditches having a descent of two inches in twelve feet, went through this year of extreme trial without a wash. In some places the water trickled over the beds where the level had become imperfect, especially in the short rows, but was soon disposed of the furrows below, which were more perfect, and thus the whole was saved.

You will observe that I have described this system of cultivation as adapted to my own lands, and therefore cannot say that precisely the same result would be gained in lands of a different quality.

But I will venture to say, that deep ploughing, combined with this system, will prevent any lands that are well adapted to the growing of cotton, or tobacco for successive years upon the same field, and then the land losing its cohesiveness, will almost certainly wash under any treatment.

With great esteem,  
Your obt. servant,  
J. W. NORWOOD.

KING SOLOMON'S BLACKSMITH—And it came to pass when Solomon, the son of David, had finished the Temple of Jerusalem, that he called unto him the chief architects, the head artificers and cunning workers in silver and gold, and in wood, and in ivory and stone—yes, all who had sided in rearing the Temple of the Lord, and he said unto them, "Sit ye down at my table; I have prepared a feast for all my chief workers and cunning artificers—Stretch forth your hand, therefore, and eat and drink and be merry. Is not the laborer worthy of his hire? Is not the skillful artificer deserving of honor?"

And when Solomon and the chief workmen were seated, and the fatteness of the land and the oil of which were set upon the table, there came one who knocked loudly at the door, and forced himself even into the feast chamber. Then Solomon, the King, was wroth, and said: "What manner of man art thou?"

And the man answered and said: "When men wish to honor me, they call me Son of the Forge; but when they desire to mock me, they call me blacksmith; and seeing that the toil of working in fire covers me with sweat and smut, the latter name, O King, is not inapt, and in truth, thy servant deserves no better."

But Solomon to him: "why come you thus rudely to honor me, and to the feast, where none save the chief workmen of the Temple are invited?"

"Please ye, my Lord, I came rudely," replied the man; "because thy servant obliged me to force my way, but I came not unbidden. Was it not proclaimed that the chief workmen of the Temple were invited to dine with the King of Israel?"

Then he who bore the cherubim said: "This fellow is no sculptor."

And he who inlaid the roof with pure gold said: "Neither is he a workman in fine metals."

And he who raised the walls said: "He is not a cutter of stone."

And he who made the roof cried out: "He is not cunning in cedar and pine, neither knoweth he the mystery of uniting pieces of strange timber together."

Then said Solomon, "What hast thou to say, Son of the Forge, why I should not order thee to be plucked by the beard with a scourge, and stoned to death with stones?"

But when the Son of the Forge heard this, he was in no sort dismayed, but advancing to the table, he snatched up and swallowed a cup of wine and said: "O King, live forever! The chief men of the workers in wood, and gold and stone, have said that I am not of them, and they have said truly. I am their superior; before they lived was I created—And I have named them all my servants."

And he turned him around, and said to the chief of the carvers in stone:

"Who made the tools with which you carve?"

And he said: "The blacksmith."

And he said to the chief of the masons: "Who made the chisels with which the stones of the Temple were squared?"

And he said: "The blacksmith."

And he said to the chief of the workers in wood: "Who made the tools with which you hewed the trees on Lebanon, and formed them into pillars and roof of the Temple?"

And he said: "The blacksmith."

"Who makes you the artificer in gold and in ivory?"

And he said: "The blacksmith."

"Enough, enough, my good fellow," said Solomon, "thou hast proved that I invited thee, and thou art all men's father in art. Go wash the smut of iron from thy face, and come and sit at my right hand, for the chiefs of my workmen are but men—thou art more."

So it happened at the feast of Solomon, and blacksmiths have been honored ever since.—*London Magazine*.

A CANADIAN LEGISLATOR'S OPINION OF NEGROES.—A bill being under consideration in the Canadian Parliament, to lay a capitation tax on foreigners, a member moved amendment, to include blacks from the United States. He said the black people who were the lives of the greatest curses to the Proving, were the lives of the people of the West were made wretched by the inundation of those animals, and many of the largest farmers in the country of Kent had been compelled to leave their beautiful farms because of the pestilential swarms. Blacks were a worthless, useless, thriftless set of beings—they were too indolent, lazy and ignorant to work, and too proud to be taught. And not only that, if the criminal calendar of the country were examined, it would be found that they were a majority of the criminals. They were so detestable, that unless some method were adopted of preventing their influx into this country by the "underground" route, the people of the West would be obliged to drive them out in open violence.

GIRARD, THE MONEY MAKER. A recent number of the *Hopewell Words* contains a sketch of Stephen Girard. It is not correct in all particulars, and yet it embodies many interesting facts, in the history of the celebrated banker. After giving the leading events in the early life of Girard, the writer proceeds as follows:

In 1812, Stephen Girard, the one-eyed cabin boy who had purchased the banking premises of the old Bank of the United States (whose charter was not renewed) and started the Girard Bank, a large private establishment, which not only conferred advantages on the community greater than the State institution upon which it was founded, but while the public mind was still in the throes of the war, he was exhausted by war, the Girard Bank could not have sustained the war, and put itself in the position of the principal creditor of the country. In 1814, Girard subscribed the whole of a large Government loan, from patriotic motives, and in 1817 he contributed by his unshaken credit and undiminished funds to bring about the resumption of the currency. In 1821, he was elected Mayor of Philadelphia. In 1823, he was elected to the Senate of the United States. He was a man of great energy, and his life was a constant struggle with the elements of adversity. He was a man of great energy, and his life was a constant struggle with the elements of adversity. He was a man of great energy, and his life was a constant struggle with the elements of adversity.

Stephen Girard began his remarkable trading career with one object, which he steadily kept in view all his long life—the making of money for the power it conferred. He was content, at starting, with the small profits of the retail trader, willing to labor in any capacity to make these profits secure. He practiced the most rigid personal economy; he resisted the allurements of the world, and he was a determined foe to extravagance. He was a man of great energy, and his life was a constant struggle with the elements of adversity. He was a man of great energy, and his life was a constant struggle with the elements of adversity. He was a man of great energy, and his life was a constant struggle with the elements of adversity.

Thus he attained his eighty second year, in 1830; he had nearly lost the sight of his one eye, and used to be seen groping about his bank, disregarding every offer of assistance. He was a man of great energy, and his life was a constant struggle with the elements of adversity. He was a man of great energy, and his life was a constant struggle with the elements of adversity. He was a man of great energy, and his life was a constant struggle with the elements of adversity.

He left his monument in the "Girard College," that marble-roofed palace for the education and proper training of the orphan children of the poor, which stands the most perfect model of architecture in Philadelphia, visible from every eminence of the surrounding country. Every detail of the external and internal arrangement of this orphan college was set forth clearly and carefully in his will, showing that his design upon which he had lavished the mass of wealth, was not a hasty and impulsive one, but the result of long and careful consideration.

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REMARKABLE CURE OF A LUNATIC.—Dr. Thayer, on Thursday, performed a surgical operation on a lunatic. The man was thrown from a wagon about a year ago, and he has been in a state of lunacy ever since. He was a man of great energy, and his life was a constant struggle with the elements of adversity. He was a man of great energy, and his life was a constant struggle with the elements of adversity. He was a man of great energy, and his life was a constant struggle with the elements of adversity.

On Saturday morning he awoke, arose from his bed, and walked up and down the room, perfectly rational. He complained that the bandages, which had been put on his head, had been removed, and he was now free. He was a man of great energy, and his life was a constant struggle with the elements of adversity. He was a man of great energy, and his life was a constant struggle with the elements of adversity. He was a man of great energy, and his life was a constant struggle with the elements of adversity.

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NOT AN UNCOMMON CASE.—A traveler from Virginia, as he is blooded horse, plethoric saddle bags and haughty insolence indicated, stopped at a comfortable way side inn in Kentucky, one night, many years ago. The landlord was a jovial, whole souled fellow, as landlords were in those days, and gave the stranger the best entertainments his table and bar would afford, as well as his own merry company to make him cozy. Early in the morning the stranger was up and looking around, when he espied a rich bed of mint in the garden. He straightway sought Boniface, and inquired at what he supposed his inhospitality in setting plain whiskey before him, when the means of brewing nectar was so easy or access, he dragged him forth to the spot, and pointing with his finger at the mint he exclaimed:

"I say, landlord, will you be good enough to say what that is?"

"A bed of mint," said the somewhat astonished landlord.

"And will you please tell me what is the use of it?"

"Well, don't exactly know," kept the old woman dries, "but I think it is for the best liquor."

The Virginian almost turned pale at the enormity of this assertion.

"And do you mean to tell me that you don't know what a mint julep is?"

"No," kept it something like sage tea, stranger."

"Sage tea!" Go right along to the house, get a bucket of mint leaves and your best liquor."

The landlord obeyed, and the stranger soon made his appearance with a handful of fragrant, dewy mint, and then they brewed, and drank, and brewed and drank again; breakfast was over, and the stranger's horse was brought out only to be ordered back. Through the live-long day they brewed and drank, and the stranger's horse was brought out only to be ordered back.

The stranger stayed as long as he pleased, free of cost. The Virginian, however, detained him, and kept up ere they made it bed-time; the landlord and his Virginia guest, who had initiated him into the pleasant mysteries of mint julep, were sworn brothers, and when the latter departed the next morning, Boniface exacted a pledge that he would stop on his return, and stay as long as he pleased, free of cost.

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From Fairbairn, in Rice county, to Wilton, in Waseca county.  
From Grey Eagle, via Pine Creek, P. O. by Ridgeway.  
From Rochester, via Salem, Ashland, and Somerset, to Wilton.  
From Redwing, via Sacramento, Wamamungo and Rice Lake to Owatonna.  
From Carman's Falls via Wastedo, Hader, Wamamungo, Cherry Grove, and Concord, to Monteville.  
From Austin to Blue Earth City.  
From Minneapolis, via Watertown, and Winstead, to Brainerd.  
From Mount Nelson to White Water Falls.  
From Geneva, in Freeborn county to Freeborn City, in Fairbairn county.  
From Swan River to Long Prairie.  
From Blue Earth City, to Fort Dodge, in Iowa.  
From New Ulm, via Tuttle's Farm, to Leavenworth.  
From Long Prairie to Little Falls.  
From Columbus to Cambridge.  
From Clear Spring, via Clearwater, to Forest City.  
From Redwing to Monteville.  
From Sioux